

PRESS RELEASE

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IOWA COUNTY MAN CHARGED IN COMMERCIAL GUIDING CASE INVOLVING ILLEGAL DEER HUNTING

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Richard J. Limmex, of Spring Green, Wisconsin, was charged yesterday in a two-count information. In Count 1, Limmex faces a maximum of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for conspiring to sell wildlife, deer and turkey, with values exceeding \$350, taken in violation of Wisconsin law and later transported in interstate commerce.

In Count 2, Limmex faces a maximum of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for selling wildlife, namely an eight-point trophy buck white-tailed deer that was later transported in interstate commerce from Wisconsin to Pennsylvania, knowing that a Pennsylvania hunter had taken this deer in violation of Wisconsin law.

An initial appearance and plea hearing is scheduled before Chief U.S. District Court Judge Barbara B. Crabb on May 5, 2006, at 1:20 p.m.

Charges against 46 hunters from eleven different states have been filed in state and federal courts following a two-year investigation into illegal white-tailed deer and turkey hunting in southwest Wisconsin. The investigation, conducted by the Wisconsin

Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, focused on Blue River Outfitters (BRO), Blue River, Wisconsin, and its principal owner, Adam E. Lawinger (Lawinger), also of Blue River, Wisconsin.

The federal information in this case alleges that Limmex and Lawinger sold guided deer and turkey hunts to out-of-state hunters and that they, in connection with these hunts, violated numerous Wisconsin laws by: (1) knowingly baiting in areas within Chronic Wasting Disease Control Zones; (2) directing Blue River Outfitter hunters not to kill female deer in "Earn-A-Buck" zones; (3) repeatedly using female deer carcasses to register multiple buck deer killed by Blue River Outfitter hunters; (4) transporting, possessing and storing deer and turkeys to which the proper tags had not been affixed; and (5) allowing certain Blue River Outfitter hunters to kill turkeys with a .22 caliber rifle.

On December 19, 2005, Lawinger pled guilty in U.S. District Court to a two-count information that charged him with conspiring to sell and transport wildlife valued greater than \$350 (trophy white-tailed deer and wild turkeys) taken in violation of Wisconsin law; and engaging in the sale and transportation of wildlife more than \$350 (trophy white-tailed deer), knowing that the deer were taken in violation of Wisconsin law. Lawinger was sentenced on March 3, 2006, to two years in prison and ordered to pay \$73,534 in restitution to the State of Wisconsin.

On March 22, 2006, Jeffrey D. Godfrey, an Alabama hunter, was sentenced to two concurrent terms of six months in federal prison and ordered to pay \$26,884 in restitution to the State of Wisconsin.

Two other hunters, Tod Moore of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, and Thomas Shea of Panama City Beach, Florida, have pled guilty in federal court in their respective home states to purchasing and transporting in interstate commerce, wildlife--trophy white-tailed deer--each worth more than \$350, taken in violation of Wisconsin law.

Prosecution of the federal cases have been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy M. O'Shea. You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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